

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Cancelled)

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): An information processing method comprising:

~~a storage step for~~ storing information for discriminating contents duplicated in the past and temporal data as to a previous start time of duplication of said contents into a database;

~~an acquisition step for~~ acquiring the information for discriminating content to be duplicated;

~~a decision step for~~ deciding whether or not copying of the contents discriminated by the discriminating information is allowed in accordance with a comparison between the temporal data stored in the database and current time; and

~~a duplication step for~~ duplicating the contents in accordance with said decision whether copying of the content is allowed or not,

wherein the duplication of the content is prohibited when an interval of time between the current time and the previous start time of duplication of said content specified by the temporal data stored in the database is less than predetermined amount of time.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A program storage medium ~~having stored therein a computer readable program, said program~~ including computer program instructions that cause a computer to implement an information processing method, comprising:

~~a storage step for~~ storing information for discriminating contents duplicated in the past and temporal data as to a previous start time of duplication of said contents into a database;

~~an acquisition step for~~ acquiring the information for discriminating contents to be duplicated;

~~a decision step for~~ deciding whether or not copying of the contents discriminated by the discriminating information is allowed in accordance with a comparison between the temporal data stored in the database and current time; and

~~a duplication step for~~ duplicating the contents in accordance with said decision whether copying of the content is allowed or not,

wherein the duplication of the content is prohibited when an interval of time between the current time and the previous start time of duplication of said content specified by the temporal data stored in the database is less than predetermined amount of time.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The information processing method according to claim 2 wherein

said contents is reproduced from an information storage medium.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The information processing method according to claim 4 wherein

said information recording medium is a compact disc.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The information processing method according to claim 2 wherein

the discriminating information for discriminating the contents is the ISRC (International Standard Recording Code).

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The information processing method according to claim 2 wherein

the discriminating information for discriminating the contents is the TOC (Table of Contents).

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The information processing method according to claim 2 wherein

the ISRC (International Standard Recording Code) as the discriminating information for discriminating the contents is read out at said storage step from the information recording medium and, if the ISRC is not stored in said information recording medium, data of the TOC (Table of Contents) is utilized as said discriminating information.

Claim 9 (Cancelled)

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The information processing method according to claim 2, further comprising:

~~a step of~~ checking data in said database; said checking step detecting possible modification using a hash function.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The information processing method according to claim 2 wherein

said predetermined amount of time is a fixed value.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The information processing method according to claim 2 wherein

duplication of the content is allowed when said discrimination information and temporal data of the content to be duplicated is not stored in the database.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The information processing method according to claim 11 further comprising:

~~a detection step for detecting a watermark encoded in the content to be duplicated;~~
and

wherein said ~~decision in the decision step~~ deciding is made on the basis of the watermarked information if the interval of time between the current time and the start time of duplication of said content in the past specified by the temporal data stored in the database is more than predetermined amount of time.

Claim 14 (Cancelled).

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The information processing method according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 2, further comprising:

updating the previous start time of duplication in the database to the present time when the duplication of content is permitted.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The information processing method according to claim 3, further comprising:

updating the previous start time of duplication in the database to the present time when the duplication of content is permitted.